

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 ANKARA 004131

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR INR/R/MR, EUR/SE, EUR/PD, NEA/PD, DRL
JCS PASS J-5/CDR S. WRIGHT

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [OPRC](#) [KMDR](#) [TU](#)

SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

FRIDAY, JUNE 27, 2003

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES
BRIEFING
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

Iranian students warn Khatami - Sabah
Bush's company Vinnell to train new Iraqi army - Hurriyet
State Dept., CIA disagree over Iraqi weapons program - Aksam
Arafat expects support from Turkey - Milliyet
Turk and Armenian women's Yerevan summit - Hurriyet

OPINION MAKERS

Mideast cease-fire attempts in vain - Radikal
Arafat: Peace depends on Israel - Radikal
U.S. official: U.S. unprepared for post-war Iraq - Zaman
Annan: UN unprepared for Iraq - Yeni Safak
CIA's dirty company Vinnell in Iraq - Yeni Safak
As-Sahaf was released after a short detention - Cumhuriyet
Historic agreement for London, Moscow natural gas pipeline - Cumhuriyet

BRIEFING

NSC meeting: The National Security Council (NSC) has discussed on Thursday the EU adjustment package, and amnesty for PKK/KADEK members. A NSC declaration said Turkey's EU harmonization attempt should be carried out in line with "republican principles", and that EU should not delay accession negotiations with Turkey. All papers say that the NSC's military wing is concerned that amendment to the Law on Struggle Against Terrorism, and broadcast in languages other than Turkish could boost terror.

President against unrestricted access to bases: President Sezer has voiced objection to a government decision to give the U.S. and its coalition partners unlimited access to Turkish bases and harbors, and advised the cabinet to limit the access period to one year, papers say. Sezer approved the classified government decision to open bases for Iraqi humanitarian efforts after access for foreigners was limited to one year, reports note. Foreign Minister Gul is reported as saying that combatant forces would not use Turkey's bases for transit passage to Iraq.

Susurluk suspect acquitted: Former DYP deputy Sedat Bucak, who was charged for sheltering criminals and involvement in underground activities was acquitted in the Susurluk case for investigating links between the state and mafia, dailies report. Bucak, a southeastern tribal leader, has survived a crash while travelling in the same car with a high level police officer and a former right-wing terrorist near the Aegean town of Susurluk in November 1996.

7th EU harmonization package underway: Foreign Minister Gul said that a 7th "adjustment package" drafted by the government for Turkey's EU drive would primarily regulate relations between the military and civilians, papers say. The new package will expand freedom of expression, bring reforms to the judiciary, and raise the level of accountability in the public sector, Gul noted.

HR commission meets Armenians: A delegation of the parliamentary human rights commission has paid a visit to

the Armenian Patriarch Mesrob II in Istanbul on Thursday to hear complaints and problems, papers report. The commission will continue meetings with other minority groups in Turkey, reports say.

Run Agra Co. to breed cattle in Turkey: Turkey's Yasar Holding Group of companies has tied a preliminary deal with the U.S. Run Agra company for breeding of beef cattle, "Hurriyet" reports. U.S. Ambassador to Ankara, Robert Pearson, will attend the signing ceremony in Izmir on June 30. The U.S. government has guaranteed a \$460,000 grant for the project, Hurriyet says.

EDITORIAL OPINION: Iraq

"Things are getting messy"
Hasan Unal argued in Islamist-intellectual Zaman (6/27):
"Despite the media overlook, the fact of the matter is that things in Iraq are getting messier for the US everyday. Arabs are becoming more displeased with the occupation itself as well as the occupation forces. . The anti-American or anti-British incidents seem to be individual cases yet the US should not be surprised if this kind of resistance turns into an organized movement in the course of time. Americans in Iraq did not take the necessary steps for establishment of a new Iraqi administration in the post Saddam era. Instead their focus somehow shifted from administrative issues to organize Kurds in the north. The US plan might be using the Kurds in order to block the rise of Arab nationalism, yet it does not seem to be working well."

"US in the post war era"
Fehmi Kuru observed in Washington in Islamist-intellectual Yeni Safak (6/27): "It seems the popular support that both US and UK administrations have been enjoying before the war, has started diminishing. There are many confused minds in Washington and they all seem to be in the process of recalculation. The US administration is not presenting a unified picture, and Pentagon's power has become a disturbing factor for the other administrative departments. There are more comments and analysis than before about the neo-cons being solely influential over the Bush administration. . Turkey, on the other hand, had proven its functioning democracy before the Iraq war. And its importance was once again underlined by President Bush as he was reaffirming US support for Turkey's EU accession."

PEARSON